

REMARKS

Prior to amendment 2-14, and 20-24 were pending in this application. After amendment Claims 2-14, and 20-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 15-19, and 21-24 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims Rejection - Section 112

Claims 21, 22, and 24 stand rejected as being indefinite. Claim 21 has been amended to be definite. Claims 22 and 24 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims Rejection - Section 102(e)

Claims 20, 23, and 24 are rejected as being anticipated by Dwyer et al. US PN 6,395,017.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a locking position of the knob in the handle at a transverse slot location where initial unintended deployment of the stent is prevented. Dwyer et al. discloses a transverse slot section that acts as a stop after a section of its stent graft has been deployed. No positioning of the transverse slot to act as locking position to prevent unintended initiation of deployment is disclosed or suggested.

Claims 23 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims Rejection - Section 103(a)

Claims 2-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al. (EP 1025813 A2) in view of Lenker et al. (5,683,451).

Claim 2, has again been amended to clarify the nature of the recited spacer assembly, consistent with the amended specification. It now recites "a channel spacer, extending coaxially along and in contact with a portion of the length of said inner shaft having a plurality of channels spaced about a circumference said inner shaft and channel spacer combination . . ."

The members with channels shown in the cited prior art do not contain members which can reasonably be characterized as a channel spacer, extending coaxially along and in contact with a portion of the length of said inner shaft having a plurality of channels spaced about a circumference said inner shaft and channel spacer combination, consistent with the present specification. Wilson et al. by Examiner's own comments does not contain a channel spacers. Lenker, also cited by the Examiner contains channels in the outer shaft, not a channel assembly which extends along and is in

contact with the inner shaft to act as an inner shaft and channel spacer combination configured to eliminate slack when the inner and outer shafts are moved with respect to each other.

No new matter has been added.

Claims Rejection - Section 103(a)

Claims 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson et al. (EP 1025813 A2) in view of Lenker et al. (5,683,451) as applied to claim 2 above and further in view of Dwyer et al. US PN 6,395,017.

Claim 21 has been amended, as discussed above. The cited art does not disclose or suggest the structure as recited in Claim 21 as amended. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that claims are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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